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X (See 2) SYMINGTON

X-Pass R.HARKNESS

NBC News on the Hour, at 10:00 P.M., over NBC (Washington),  
and NBC (New York).

RICHARD HARKNESS: "Today, at his White House news conference, President Eisenhower defended his defense program against Democratic critics. But when it came to the question of leaking of national security figures, specifically Russian missile capability compared with ours, Mr. Eisenhower expressed no worry.

"But to our intelligence community here in the capital, such published reports regarding our inter-continental weapon strength relative to Russia's are a matter of real concern. For instance, I suppose: The CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY Chief, Allen W. Dulles, testified recently in a closed session of the Senate Intelligence Committee. Now Dulles had talked perhaps twenty minutes, he was only beginning his testimony. Then, Senator J. William Fulbright of Missouri, the Democrat, left the closed hearing room. Senator Symington went to newsmen waiting in the corridor outside. Symington announced, in headline words, quoting Dulles' testimony: 'His testimony confirms my worst fears regarding the state of our national defense.' That, before Intelligence Chief Dulles had opportunity fully to explain his estimate of comparative Soviet Russian missile strength.

"Then tomorrow, on the President's White House calendar, heavy commitments due to national security. At eight-fifteen in the morning, Gordon Gray, special assistant for national security matters, will call the National Security Council, eleven o'clock, General Nathan F. Twining, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff."